

WASHINGTON NEWS.

Washington, March 31.—Mr. Roosevelt is more inclined to think himself the whole thing than ever since he succeeded—he thinks he did it all by himself—in driving the beet sugar Republicans of the House into agreeing to support the Cuban reciprocity bill, but it is a matter of comment among our servant politicians that he is rapidly losing prestige in Congress, and especially in the Senate. Members of the House are afraid to indulge in criticism of the administration on account of the Congressional election. Nothing could more surely indicate the loss of prestige on the part of Mr. Roosevelt with Republican Senators than the attitude of several Republican members of the Committee on Military Affairs toward what is known as the Root bill for the reorganization of the staff of the army, which Mr. Roosevelt has gone out of his way to endorse. Senator Hawley, chairman of the committee, and Senator Proctor, who was once Secretary of War, are known to be down on this bill, and to agree with the criticisms of it made by General Miles, and they have taken pains to let their attitude be known. There are other reasons also for the antagonism of members of this committee toward Mr. Roosevelt, and the same sort of feeling exists in other Senate committees, and Republican Senators are already predicting that Mr. Roosevelt will be a badly defeated man if he allows his name to go before the next national convention of his party as a candidate for the Presidential nomination.

Democrats on the House committee charged with the duty of investigating the claim of Capt. Christmas, of Denmark, that Abner McKinley's law firm had engaged in bribing Congressmen and newspapers in connection with the negotiations for the purchase of the Danish West Indies, will see that the investigation is not a whitewashing affair. It is not the first time that Abner McKinley's name has been connected with scandal.

Representative Talbert, of South Carolina, paid Mr. Roosevelt a deserved compliment on his having vetoed several bills intended to clear the military record of men who deserted the United States army during the civil war, when he said, in a short speech in the House: "I am glad to see that the chief executive has come to my assistance to keep the roll of honor from being besmirched by deserters. While I disagree with the President in almost everything else, I heartily endorse his position in this matter. I have protested against the passage of these desertion bills for ten years."

While it is denied that Secretary Wilson's statement to the Cabinet, a synopsis of which was given out at the White House concerning the vulnerability of Germany to retaliation should this government seek that method of resenting recent restrictions placed upon the importation of American food stuffs, was a threat, it is so considered by many. Why the denial, is the puzzling part of the matter. The situation is one that calls not only for threats, but for acts. It is plain, everyday common sense that German food products, of which we buy many million dollars worth each year, are not entitled to any better treatment from this government than Germany gives American food products, and if the administration fails to adopt and live up to a policy based upon that idea it will hear from the people at the first opportunity.

Members of the G. A. R. who have for several years been fighting Pension Commissioner Evans are wondering what they gained by his resignation, now in the hands of Mr. Roosevelt, since the latter has publicly said that the change is only to be the head of the Pension Bureau, not in its policy.

Hon. James M. Griggs, of Georgia, who was unanimously chosen for chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, is believed to be just the man for the place, and great things are being predicted of his management. No committee has started with more confidence of electing a majority of the House than this one now has.

The interests of the pneumatic tube companies, which were left out in the cold by the last Congress, are seemingly in a fair way to get pretty well taken care of by this Congress. Senator Lodge has offered an amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill providing an appropriation of \$500,000 for pneumatic tube service for the next fiscal year and authorizing contracts for this service for four years at an annual expenditure of \$800,000. Senator Cullom has introduced a bill instructing the Postmaster General to make contracts for pneumatic tube service in cities, limiting the annual cost in each city to 4 per cent. of the gross postal revenues.

Everybody will have to agree that there is such a thing as a good trust, now that the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty has been incorporated by a number of patriotic ladies and gentlemen of Washington. The objects of this trust are to look out for and preserve places of historic interest, to take care of the beautiful natural parks of the country and to prevent their disfigurement or destruction either by vandalism or commercialism.

Republican Senators are being made to realize that truth of the saying, "Chickens come home to roost," by Speaker Henderson's exercise of the

autocratic power placed in his hands by the rules of the House to hang up legislation that has passed the Senate. Among the bills passed by the Senate that are now hung up in the House are the omnibus claims bill, in which many Senators and members of the House are deeply interested; the irrigation bill, which Senators and Representatives from the States that would be benefited have appealed to Mr. Roosevelt to help them try to get action upon by the House; the bill for the establishment of the Department of Commerce and Labor; the bill for the increase of the salaries of the judges of the Federal courts, and last, but by no means least, the ship subsidy bill. It is believed that these bills are being held back because Speaker Henderson and his admirers think they would make Democratic votes in the Congressional elections if allowed to go through at this session. At any rate, there is no doubt that they are being held back and that Republican Senators are hopping mad about it.

Ten Nights in a Bar Room.

Continued from 7th page

I turned to observe the young man more closely. His face I remembered, though I could not identify him at first. But, when I heard him addressed soon after as Ned Hargrove, I had a vivid recollection of a little incident that occurred some years before, and which then made a strong impression. The reader has hardly forgotten the visit of Mr. Hargrove to the bar room of the "Sickle and Sheaf," and the conversation among some of its inmates, which his withdrawal, in company with his son, then occasioned. The father's watchfulness over his boy, and his efforts to save him from the allurements and temptations of the bar room, had proved, as now appeared, unavailing. The son was several years older; but it was sadly evident, from the expression of his face, that he had been growing older in evil faster than in years.

The few words that I have mentioned as passing between this young man and another inmate of the bar room, caused me to turn back from the door, through which I was about passing, and take a chair near to where Hargrove had seated himself. As I did so, the eyes of Simon Slade rested on the last-named individual.

"Ned Hargrove!" he said, speaking roughly, "if you want a drink, you'd better get it, and make yourself scarce."

"Don't trouble yourself," retorted the young man, "you'll get your money for the drink in good time."

This irritated the landlord, who swore at Hargrove violently, and said something about not wanting boys about his place who couldn't stir from home without having "daddy or mammy running after them."

"Never fear!" cried out the person who had first addressed Hargrove—"his old man's gone to prayer meeting. We shan't have the light of his pious countenance here tonight."

I fixed my eyes on the young man to see what effect this coarse and irreverent allusion to his father would have. A slight tinge of shame was in his face; but I saw that he had not sufficient moral courage to resent the shameful desecration of a parent's name. How should he, when he was himself the first to desecrate that name?

"If he were forty fathoms deep in the infernal regions," answered Slade, "he would find out that Ned was here, and get half an hour's leave of absence, to come after him. The fact is, I'm tired of seeing his solemn, sanctimonious face here every night. If the boy has not spirit enough to tell him to mind his own business, as I have done more than fifty times, why, let the boy stay away himself."

"Why don't you send him off with a flea in his ear, Ned?" said one of the company, a young man scarcely his own age. "My old man tried that game with me, but he soon found that I could hold the winning cards."

"Just what I'm going to do the very next time he comes after me."

"Oh, yes! So you've said twenty times," remarked Frank Slade, in a sneering, insolent manner.

Edward Hargrove had not the spirit to resent this; he only answered: "Just let him show himself here tonight, and you will see."

"No, we won't see," sneered Frank. "Wouldn't it be fun!" was exclaimed. "I hope to be on hand, should it ever come off."

"He's as 'fraid as death of the old chap," laughed a sottish-looking man, whose age ought to have inspired him with some respect for the relation between father and son, and doubtless would, had not a long course of drinking and familiarity with debasing associates blunted his moral sense.

"Now for it!" I heard uttered, in a quick, delighted voice. "Now for fun! Spunk up to him, Ned! Never say die!"

I turned toward the door, and there stood the father of Edward Hargrove. (To be continued.)

Things Not Wanted.

Dogs, pianos and typewriters are the possessions most frequently advertised for sale at second hand, according to an advertising man. Cameras run these three hard in the sale of things desirable to get rid of, and bicycles come next.

Bicycles and cameras would probably head the list, so many people seem to wish to be rid of them, but their tenure of advertising popularity is usually brief. Household furniture, horses and carriages come next in the list. Then jewelry, watches, sewing machines and musical instruments.

Books are far down, almost the last in the list. Folks who have them usually seem to wish to keep them.—New York Sun.

His Only Request.

It happened once that a faithful Moslem married, but when he saw his wife she proved to be very unprepossessing. Some days after the marriage his wife said to him, "My dove, as you have many relatives, I wish you would let me know before whom I may unveil." "My gazelle," he replied, "if thou wilt only hide thy face from me I care not to whom thou showest it."

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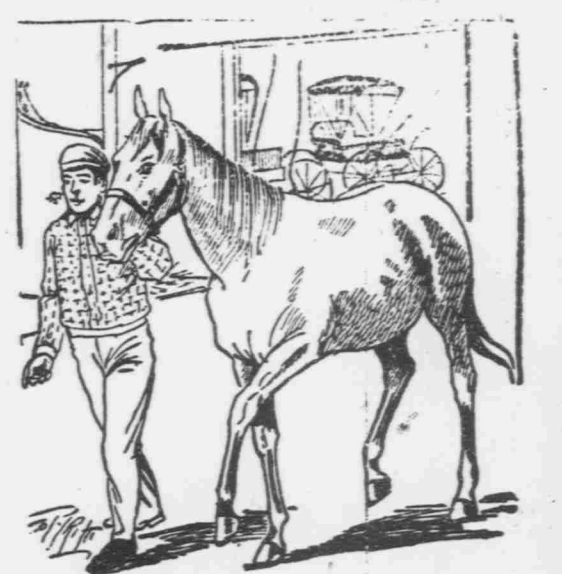
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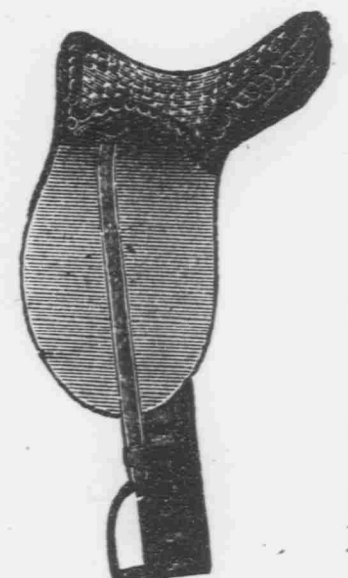
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